AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting multimedia data, comprising:

receiving a plurality of signals that carry the multimedia data;

encoding the plurality of signals into respective streams;

identifying each of the respective streams with an identifier that identifies a virtual broadcast domain;

associating a set of the respective streams into at least one additional stream;

[[and]]

transmitting the at least one additional stream to an intermediate point;

receiving, at the intermediate point, the at least one additional stream;

parsing, at the intermediate point, the at least one additional stream into channel streams; and

forwarding at least one of the channel streams to a subscriber facility.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein associating a set of the respective streams into at least one additional stream further comprises associating the set of the respective streams based upon the demand of subscribers associated with an intermediate point.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

~~receiving the at least one additional stream at an intermediate point; and~~

~~transmitting a one of the set of the respective streams to a subscriber facility, the~~ ~~one of the set of the respective streams being~~ the at least one of the channel streams is

selected by a user associated with the subscriber facility.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the intermediate point comprises a local hub.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the plurality of signals comprises receiving at least one feed signal that is carrying a digital television signal.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein encoding the plurality of signals into respective streams comprises encoding the plurality of signals into a MPEG stream.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying each of the respective streams comprises inserting a tag that identifies a virtual local area network into each of the respective streams.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein associating the set of the respective streams into at least one additional stream comprises statistically multiplexing the respective streams into a single, constant bit rate stream.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of signals include at least one of a personal video recording signal and a video on demand signal.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering multimedia data, comprising:

receiving, at an intermediate point, a first stream that includes a plurality of second streams each having a corresponding tag that identifies a virtual broadcast domain;

parsing, at the intermediate point, the first stream into the plurality of second streams;

identifying each of the second plurality of streams based on their corresponding tags;

selecting at least one of the second plurality of streams that has been requested by a subscriber; and

transmitting the selected one of the second plurality of streams based on extending the virtual broadcast domain to the subscriber based on the subscriber request.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the first stream comprises receiving a MPEG stream.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein identifying each of the second plurality of streams based on their corresponding tags comprises identifying a virtual local area network assigned to each of the second plurality of streams.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein selecting at least one of the second plurality of streams that has been requested by the subscriber, comprises:

querying the subscriber for a requested stream;

determining a virtual broadcast domain of the requested stream; and

selecting one of the second plurality of streams having a tag that corresponds to the virtual broadcast domain of the requested stream.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the selected one of the second plurality of streams based on extending the virtual broadcast domain to the subscriber, comprises:

determining a port that is coupled to the subscriber; and

allocating the port to the virtual broadcast domain of the selected one of the second plurality of streams.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transmitting multimedia data, comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of signals that carry the multimedia data;

means for encoding the plurality of signals into respective streams;

means for identifying each of the respective streams with an identifier that identifies a virtual broadcast domain;

means for associating a set of the respective streams into at least one additional stream; [[and]]

means for transmitting the at least one additional stream to an intermediate point;

means for receiving, at the intermediate point, the at least one additional stream;

means for parsing, at the intermediate point, the at least one additional stream into channel streams; and

means for forwarding at least one of the channel streams to a subscriber facility.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for delivering multimedia data, comprising:

means for receiving, at an intermediate point, a first stream that includes a plurality of second streams each having a corresponding tag that identifies a virtual broadcast domain;

means for parsing, at the intermediate point, the first stream into the plurality of second streams;

means for identifying each of the second plurality of streams based on their corresponding tags;

means for selecting at least one of the second plurality of streams that has been requested by a subscriber; and

means for transmitting the selected one of the second plurality of streams based on extending the virtual broadcast domain to the subscriber.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for providing multimedia data, comprising:

at least one encoder for encoding signals into respective streams each having a unique virtual broadcast domain;

a first switch for combining a set of the streams into at least one additional

stream and transmitting the at least one additional stream through a network; and

a second switch for receiving the at least one additional stream from the network,

parsing the at least one additional stream into respective streams, and extending the

virtual broadcast domain of one of the respective streams to subscribers requesting the

respective stream.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the at least one encoder encode

the signals into respective MPEG streams.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the first switch determines the set

of streams combined into the at least one additional stream based on information from

the subscribers.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the first switch determines the set

of streams combined into the at least one additional stream based on a preselected set

of the streams.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the first switch advertises to the

second switch the respective virtual broadcast domains of all of the respective streams.

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the encoders encode the signals

into respective streams each having a unique virtual local area network tag.

23. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the second switch extends the virtual broadcast domain of one of the respective streams based on allocating a virtual local area network to ports corresponding to the subscribers that requested the respective stream.